



**League of Women Voters
Dearborn – Dearborn Heights**

**Polls open
7 a.m. to
8 p.m.**

Non-Partisan

VOTER GUIDE

for Dearborn and Dearborn Heights

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 Election

ABOUT THIS GUIDE: Publication is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters. The League takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts stated by the candidates, who are listed in alphabetical order. Candidates' words are printed exactly as *submitted* including any misspellings. If word limits were exceeded, an ellipsis (...) is used. For more information, go to www.lwvddh.org or call 313-278-6476.



WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

City of Dearborn

3 Ballot Proposals

- 1: Operating Millage
- 2: Library Millage
- 3: Eliminate Civil Service

Dearborn School Board (elect 2 of 4)

City of Dearborn Heights

1 Ballot Proposal on Operating Millage

City Clerk (elect 1 of 2)

City Council (elect 3 of 5)

District 7 School Board (elect 2 of 4)

District 7 School Board (1 6-yr. term unopposed)

Want to see the candidates forum?

It will be aired periodically on your cable local government access channel.

See www.lwvddh.org for more information.



Need an absentee ballot?

Contact your City Clerk

Dearborn 943-2014

Dearborn Heights 791-3434



City of Dearborn - Ballot Proposals

The boxed information is written by the League of Women Voters.

Proposal 1 OPERATING MILLAGE - The City of Dearborn has cut 35% of its non-Police and Fire workforce and reduced spending by \$12 million annually. Lower tax revenues will require more reductions and impact services and programs further. An additional 5-year millage will allow Dearborn to maintain core services while permanently reducing operating costs.

Shall Section 13.2 of the Dearborn City Charter be amended to temporarily allow the City to levy an additional ad valorem tax up to \$3.50 per \$1,000 in taxable value (3.5 mills) which will raise approximately \$12,250,000 in the first year it is levied, for no more than 5 years? YES or NO

Supporters say: Vote yes to reduce the impact of cutbacks in city services. This tax will help Dearborn economically survive these challenging times.

Those who oppose say: Vote no to keep the tax rate at its current level. Now is not the time to increase taxes which might discourage growth.

Proposal 2 LIBRARY MILLAGE - State law allows citizens to authorize that 1 mill be dedicated to offset the costs of providing library services. Due to declining revenues, library services have been reduced. Additional revenues will be used to support greater technology so that the City of Dearborn can provide effective and efficient access to informational, developmental, and entertainment-oriented materials in order to meet current and future user demands.

Shall the City of Dearborn in accordance with State law MCL § 397.201 levy an additional ad valorem tax in an amount not to exceed \$1 per \$1,000 in taxable value which equals 1 mill or approximately \$3,500,000 in the first year it is levied for no more than 10 years dedicated to fund the ongoing operational and capital costs of a library system? YES or NO

Supporters say: Vote yes to support greater technology and reduce the impact of cutbacks in library services.

Those who oppose say: Vote no. Additional millage may not prevent more branch closings or reductions in services.

Proposal 3 ELIMINATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM - The Civil Service System as defined in Chapter 11 of the Dearborn City Charter was created before City employees formed 8 different labor unions to represent them in negotiating contracts covering wages, benefits, and work rules. The provisions in these contracts take precedence over Civil Service policies. Dearborn is one of a few Michigan cities that still has a Civil Service System. If necessary, the City Council could create a Human Resources Commission by ordinance to oversee any employment issues for City employees.

Shall the Dearborn City Charter be amended to eliminate the Civil Service System by repealing Chapter 11? YES or NO

Supporters say: Vote yes to modernize and offer maximum flexibility to the City's hiring, promotion and firing system.

Those who oppose say: Vote no to keep a merit-based human resources system that strengthens the hiring and promotion of those best qualified for the positions.

Dearborn School Board

Elect 2 of 4 candidates, 4-year terms expire 12/31/15

Please provide biographical information and experience and explain why you are running for the School Board.
(75 words)

What are the top 3 priority issues facing the District? What actions would you take to address them if elected?
(75 words)

Stephen Stanley Dobkowski Jr.

Lifelong resident of Dearborn* former teacher and business owner*elected Dearborn City Charter Commission*former member of Wayne County's Social Service Board*founding Chairman, Polish/American Congress, Political Action Committee*Member Executive Board, 14th Congressional District Democratic Party*Graduated St. Barbara's Grade School, Orchard Lake St. Mary High School, Henry Ford Community College, Michigan State University, BA Political Science with emphasis in economics, history, geography, son of the late Stephen and Josephine Dobkowski*Member St. Barbara Parish

State Aid and Federal Aid reductions require a wider local school and city revenue base. Propose:

"A Regional Taxing Authority" collecting Income, and, or Sales Taxes-money directly returned to local schools and cities- to protect citizen control of their neighborhood schools and cities while reducing property taxes.

Adult Education skill training for parents to work with teachers in educating children.

Job creating Michigan Business Development Bank funded by a Michigan State Pension Fund investment.

Joseph A. Guido

I'm a practicing registered architect in Dearborn and have served four terms on the Board since 1993. I have three grown children who attended the Dearborn public schools. I am seeking re-election to a fifth term to continue working with administration and staff to improve student achievement despite reduced state funding and program reductions. I also want to continue to support the many positive changes that have been made at HFCC under the current Board leadership.

1. Maintain meaningful academic programs leading to increased student achievement at all grade levels, given the recent substantial funding reductions the District has experienced.

2. Provide Dearborn teachers with more tools and professional training opportunities to continue to adequately serve our general and at-risk student populations.

3. Continue progress toward increased collaboration between P-12 and HFCC to provide Dearborn students a seamless transition to affordable higher education.

Roxanne McDonald

I graduated from DHS, earned two Associate Degrees from HFCC and a Bachelor from LTU, all with honors. My husband is a twenty year member of IBEW Local 58. We have three sons; our oldest is a disabled veteran, while our other two boys currently attend Dearborn schools. I've served on Dearborn's PTSA Council and executive boards locally. I've led busloads of parents to Lansing to protest budget cuts and advocate for our children's education.

Funding cuts are the major issue facing our district; which subsequently leads to other challenges such as lay-offs, increased class sizes and program cuts.

We must evaluate current programs to determine their effectiveness, reduce unnecessary spending, contemplate alternate forms of revenue such as grants, share resources and consolidate services.

If elected, I will always consider how the decisions I make will impact the classroom because I understand that the classroom most directly impacts the students.

Mary K. Petlichkoff

Dearborn Board of Education, Vice President; Charter Commissioner, 2006-2007; City Beautiful Commissioner, Chair- school committee; Dearborn Federation of Neighborhood Associations, President; U of M Dearborn- 1975-79; Two children- Dearborn schools graduates, HFCC- 1graduate/1 current student

I will continue to contribute insight and direction to the many initiatives begun while I have been on the Board. My active involvement with both the neighborhoods and the schools provides a voice that reflects our varied needs and concerns.

Improving student achievement and ensuring our graduates have the skills to succeed is first. Use research based initiatives supported by data, provide differentiating instruction, multiple interventions and staff development to reach every student.

Continuing to balance our budget, while protecting jobs and the classrooms, is second. We asked for structural changes with our union contracts that will sustain fluctuations. Utilize funding from alternative sources to enhance general fund.

Advocate legislative changes to improve local control.

City Council - Dearborn Heights Elect 3 of 5 candidates, 4-year terms expire 12/31/15

<p><i>Please provide biographical information and experience and explain why you are running for City Council.</i> (75 words)</p>	<p><i>What are the top 3 priority issues facing the City and what actions would you take to address them if elected?</i> (75 words)</p>
<p>Kathleen Abdel-Hak</p>	
<p>Married 25 years mother of 4 grandmother of 2, resident of Dearborn Heights for 19 years. Own and operate N.J. Diamonds jewelry store for the past 16 years. I feel I can bring to the city council of Dearborn Heights creative thinking, problem solving, I would demand accountability and transparency.</p>	<p>Budget deficit the city is now facing: Watch spending, encourage new enterprise to come to the city. City services: Prioritize our city services. Public safety: Encourage neighborhood watch and cooperation with our police department to increase safety. I will be giving up my council salary if elected. That is what I am willing to do, to see our city through this financial crisis. I believe public service is a privilege.</p>
<p>Ned Apigian</p>	
<p>I am a 41 year resident, married 47 years, with one daughter. I am a Michigan State Licensed Architect (1971); a Professional Community Planner (1975); and Residential Builder (1991). Earned four university degrees: Bachelor of Architecture, UD (1966); Master of Urban Planning, WSU (1969); two Associate Degrees, HFCC (1999). Elected in 2010 to a 1 year term; this four year term better enables me to utilize my professional physical planning design experience for the City.</p>	<p>The November Milage should be approved! Because of the reduction of property values, property taxes have accordingly decreased the City's primary source of income. Therefore, we are asking for a 3 mil giveback of the reduced taxes. Employee wages and benefit reductions will be a part of this milage adoption, including our retirees. Flooding remains a problem: possible solutions -- install Sump Pumps, Back Water Preventers, and disconnect foundation drain tile system to your foul sewer.</p>
<p>Kenneth R. Baron</p>	
<p>60 years old. Married to Sue, 37 years. Two children, 3 grandchildren. Dearborn Heights resident - 35 years. Own Ken Baron's Florist & Gifts in Dearborn Heights - 36 years. Dearborn Heights City Councilman 16+ years, almost 4 years as chairman. Veteran, United States Army. I bring experience and knowledge to our council. Having my business in the city offers me the opportunity to deal promptly with problems and concerns that our citizens have.</p>	<p>The current economic crisis has put unprecedented strains on our budget and our citizens and promises to continue. I believe in offering the most services we can, while keeping within a balanced budget. Reducing spending is vital, however, not the only solution. Offering incentives to companies to fill our vacant buildings will not only create more jobs in our city, it would help to eliminate vacant homes; ultimately creating more income for Dearborn Heights.</p>

CANDIDATES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►



"If you have a plan, we want to hear it. Tell your community leaders, your local officials, your governor, and your team in Washington. Believe me, your ideas count. An individual can make a difference."

George Herbert Walker Bush, 41st President of the United States

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

City Council - Dearborn Heights Elect 3 of 5 candidates, 4-year terms expire 12/31/15

<p><i>Please provide biographical information and experience and explain why you are running for City Council.</i> (75 words)</p>	<p><i>What are the top 3 priority issues facing the City and what actions would you take to address them if elected?</i> (75 words)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Scott D. Craig</p> <p>I am a philosopher. In order to pay the bills, I work as a plant manager in an industrial wastewater treatment and product destruction plant. My true passion is the pursuit of knowledge, truth, and wisdom through logic, empathy, and love of all creation. I believe our world is in dire straits. The status quo is unsustainable. If we don't unite as Americans behind our American Ideal, then Liberty will die and tyranny reign.</p> <p>The City is a microcosm of the Whole. Issues facing America (the macrocosm), therefore affect our city. Unsound fiscal policy on a national level has led to our inability as states and municipalities to balance our budgets. Our Representatives' unwillingness to fulfill their Constitutional Oath has led to an unwarranted absorption of power. We are divided. Until we know our neighbors and act as Americans, we will regress. Dearborn Heights is not an island.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Lisa Hicks-Clayton</p> <p>I have three children and was a certified teacher for 23 years. I have 26 years of community experience including: Mayor for Ft. Ord (military base), Metro YMCA Strong Kids Community Chairperson, Michigan Military Moms and parent organizations. I am the Children's Choir Director and Missions Leader at my church; a Dearborn Heights City Beautiful Commissioner; the President and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for Golfview Manor Civic Association, and founder of the Stronger Community Program and...</p> <p>Budget- come together to think and plan of long term solutions and position ourselves to make necessary changes to be a viable community in the future. Communication- utilize available technologies in order to better communicate with residents as well increased face-to-face opportunities. Community Beautification- enhance community appearance increasing property values; attracting new residents and new businesses leading to increased revenue for our City.</p>	



Dearborn Heights – Ballot Proposal

The boxed information is written by the League of Women Voters.

HEADLEE OVERRIDE MILLAGE PROPOSAL - Shall the City of Dearborn Heights be authorized to levy the maximum millage rates previously authorized by the City Charter which have been reduced by virtue of the "Headlee Amendment" to the Michigan Constitution?

If adopted, this proposal would authorize the City to levy in 2012 and thereafter up to an additional 2.9449 mills on each dollar (\$2.9449 per thousand dollars) of taxable value of all property in the City by raising the authorized millage rates for general operations from 6.324 mills to 8.5 mills, for sanitation obligations from 0.7436 mills to 1 mill, and for police and fire protection from 1.4875 mills to 2 mills. If approved and levied in its entirety, this millage would raise an estimated \$3,488,400.00 in the first year for the City.

YES or NO

Supporters say: Vote yes to reduce the impact of cutbacks in city services, including police and fire services, trash pickup and recreation services .

Those who oppose say: Vote no to keep the tax rate at its current level. Now is not the time to increase taxes which might discourage growth.

City Clerk - City of Dearborn Heights Elect 1 of 2 candidates; term expires 12/31/13

<p><i>Please provide biographical information and experience and explain why you are running for City Clerk.</i> (75 words)</p>	<p><i>What are the top 3 priority issues facing the Clerk's office and what actions would you take to address them if elected?</i> (75 words)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Janet S. Badalow</p> <p>City Councilmember (10 years); BSBA (Accounting) LTU; MBA (Finance) WSU; Divine Child '88. 40 years old, married to John Kellett, 32-year resident. Dearborn Heights': Goodfellows, Kiwanis-President, CERT, Library Advisory Board, General Govt. Pension Board, & Disability Commission. I will continue providing essential services, improve access to City records/Council meetings, and reduce expenditures. My familiarity with City functionality will enable me to make improvements or changes virtually seamless. Serving residents well is my top priority.</p> <p><u>Redistricting</u>- I will consolidate precincts to reduce expenditures while maintaining voter access. <u>New Election Laws/Electronic Poll Books</u>- Technological updates will be compatible and compliant with current and future changes. <u>IT updates</u>- I will: go semi-paperless, process business/animal licenses online, compile a searchable archive of City Records, notify residents via email/text re: important election and City information, and have streaming video of Council meetings online. All information will be available to residents without Internet access.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Walter J. Prusiewicz</p> <p>I am married, have one son, and have lived in Dearborn Heights for 21 years. I hold a Masters Degree from Wayne State and 33 years of experience in the work force. As your current City Clerk, I am the only candidate who has on-the-job experience and State Election Certification Training. I am running for City Clerk to further improve and continue the high standards I have set for this office since April.</p> <p>Budget: We must learn to do more with less. Despite a reduction in resources, we have found solutions to improve services & recordkeeping. We have streamlined procedures, provided documents online and increased productivity. Elections & Redistricting: My plan will utilize all available technology at our disposal to save time and money while focusing on the upcoming precinct redistricting and Presidential election. Customer Service: Continue to provide friendly service to our residents, in person and online.</p>	

District 7 School Board - Dearborn Heights Elect 1 (unopposed) 6-year term expires 12/31/17

<p><i>Please provide biographical information and experience and explain why you are running for the School Board.</i> (75 words)</p>	<p><i>What are the top 3 priority issues facing the District? What actions would you take to address them if elected?</i> (75 words)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cary M. Thompson</p> <p>I am a 1983 Annapolis graduate, and a retired Doctor of Chiropractic. I was in private practice. I have been a firefighter/paramedic with the Royal Oak Fire Department, for the last thirteen years. I have been married to my wife Lisa for the last 24 years, and we have one child. I am running for the School Board because I think that an education is the most valuable asset a child can obtain.</p> <p>Funding- The state has had historic reductions in school funding, and it has created economic problems. I am a grant writer, and I want to explore grants as a revenue stream for the district. Teachers/Administrators- We are blessed to have some of the best teachers/administrators around. I want to offer them my support. Students- I want to help the students achieve their educational goals, by providing the best educational system in our area.</p>	

District 7 School Board - Dearborn Heights Elect 2 of 4 candidates, 4-year terms expire 12/31/15

Please provide biographical information and experience and explain why you are running for the School Board.
(75 words)

What are the top 3 priority issues facing the District? What actions would you take to address them if elected?
(75 words)

Vickie K. Bracken

Resident of the community for over 40 years, I attended, my children attended, and my grandchildren currently attending D7 schools. With other parents, I helped start BEA. In 2009, I received the Celebration of Excellence in Education Award. Recently retired after 30 years of service in D7. As a result of my commitment to, and experience in D7, I feel I would be an asset in insuring a quality education for **all** D7 children.

School funding is the number one issue facing schools today. State and Federal mandates continue to be passed onto school districts and no funding is being provided. School districts are being asked to operate at 2005 levels.

Next issue facing schools is students achievement , the Requirements set forth by No Child Left Behind. Fewer school districts are making Adequate Yearly Progress each year with tougher Standards.

The third issue is community involvement.

Robert J. Brown

I was born in Michigan and raised in Romulus and Dearborn. I currently live in Dearborn Hts. I have a 9 year old son at Bedford Elementary. I have been a volunteer at Bedford Elementary since 1997, and I am very involved with my son's school. I am running for the School Board, because I believe we need a voice for the children.

Sex in our schools is at an unbelievable age. I would like to get more parents involved, to help us raise awareness of this issue.

Violence in our schools is not tolerated; kids should not have to be afraid to go to school.

After school activities that Dearborn Hts is trying to get rid of, we need those, they will help with the first two issues.

Cathrine Marie Bunker

As resident of District #7 for over 20 years and a proud mother of two graduates, I was an active volunteer throughout the years. I completed my education at HFCC and at WSU, obtaining my MSW. I have worked the last 12 years advocating for at-risk populations. I have extensive training and practice with crisis intervention, conflict resolution and problem solving skills. I believe that community input and experience is very important to board decisions.

District #7 faces many serious concerns in the upcoming years and the future success of our students is dependent on the decisions we are making now.

1. We need to maintain a competitive curriculum while taking the increasing budget constraints in consideration.
2. Maintaining a zero tolerance for any form of violence.
3. Increasing parental involvement on levels within the district.

All three areas can be achieved through on-going research and education.

Velma L. Truitt

I have lived in D#7 for over 39 years. I have been an active community member for over 30 years. I was active in the parent group at Polk Elementary and instrumental in starting the parental groups at OW Best and Annapolis. I have attended school board meetings on a regular basis and have knowledge and understanding of what governs a school board and what it takes to keep our district and children moving forward.

State funding - needs to be addressed and equalized to make funding equal for all districts to obtain the state & federal goals mandated to all.

Student achievement – although D#7 has again met AYP we need to address dropout rates and our graduation rate, also online learning options.

Curriculum alignment – The changes to our core curriculum along with technology, which needs to be funded and updated regularly, has our students on track for their future.



Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.

Franklin D. Roosevelt



League of Women Voters
Dearborn – Dearborn Heights
120 N. Military
Dearborn, MI 48124

Vote November 8

Are you registered to vote?

Not sure? Go to www.michigan.gov/vote or call 888-767-6424

Ask the Michigan Secretary of State

Not registered? Contact your City Clerk's office.

Dearborn 313-943-2014 – Dearborn Heights 313-791-3434



League of Women Voters
of Dearborn – Dearborn Heights

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Since 1921 the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has promoted the informed and active participation in government, worked to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes candidates for office at any level of government and remains true to its basic purpose: to make democracy work for all citizens. The League of Women Voters makes a difference in the lives of citizens because of the energy and passion of our members and the support of our communities. For more information, go to www.lwvddh.org

Your vote makes a difference!